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RECIEVED

September 18, 2008

SEP 30 2008

Mr. Grady C. Cothen, Jr
Federal Railroad Administration
1120 Vermont Ave NW, RRS-3
Mail Stop 25
Washington DC, 20005

**FEDERAL RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF SAFETY**

Dear Mr. Cothen:

Pursuant to CFR 213.113 part (a), CSX Transportation hereby petitions the Federal Railroad Administration for a waiver from the accepted practice of stop/start rail test hand verification for a continuous rail test pilot project beginning October 20, 2008 for a period of 8 weeks on the main tracks of the North End subdivision between Richmond, VA and Rocky Mount, NC milepost limits A0.0-123.2. Prior to beginning pilot project, the North End subdivision main tracks will be rail tested with a conventional stop/start rail test vehicle and any normally scheduled intervals during pilot project will be maintained by convention stop/start rail test vehicle.

The continuous high speed rail test vehicle will be a self propelled/rail bound ultrasound Sperry car operating at speeds up to 25 mph in non stop mode making weekly runs. Upon completion of each run data will be analyzed offline by a group of experts with experience in this process. The analysis will categorize and prioritize suspects. Two teams of verifiers will then be sent out with field instruments to check locations based upon GPS coordinates. Locations will be checked 60 feet either side of suspect GPS point. Remedial actions will be applied as per CFR 213.113 for confirmed rail defects.

Continuous rail testing will provide the capability to test track more quickly and frequently, minimizing the risk of a rail service failure.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike McMaster". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mike McMaster

cc: Ken Rusk - FRA
Carlo Patrick - FRA
John West - CSX
Ken Downard - CSX